

INTEROFFICE ROUTING
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~~MUST REMAIN UNCLASSIFIED PAPER~~

NUMBER EACH MEMO OR REPLY IN LEFT BORDER. PLACE NAME, RANK AND TELEPHONE NUMBER BOTTOM OF EACH ACTION. DRAW LINE UNDER EACH ACTION

ENTER FILE CLASSIFICATION ADJUTANT _____

TO	FROM	DATE	SUBJECT
Chief, AS-90	AS-93	9 June 48	Study of [REDACTED] Messages
<p>Attached are two studies of [REDACTED] messages involving covernames: "Revised Translation of Two [REDACTED] Messages on Changes in Covernames", and "The Covername 'KARAS' in [REDACTED] Traffic".</p> <p>2 Incls as above</p> <p><i>Hugh S. Erskine</i> HUGH S. ERSKINE Lt. Col., Signal Corps Chief, CSGAS-93</p> <p><i>Col Hayes (Eyes only)</i></p> <p><i>Another!</i></p> <p><i>BZ AS 90</i></p>			

AS-90
14 July
I delivered the carbons
of these reports

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4 Jun 1948
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(8)

REVISED TRANSLATION OF TWO [REDACTED] MESSAGES
ON CHANGES IN COVERNAMES

1. Nature of the report. The present report presents a revised translation of the two [REDACTED] messages, New York-Moscow 1251 [internal number 700] of 2 September 1944 and 1403 [798] of 5 October 1944. These messages have previously been presented in the supplement of the first of these reports.

2. Reliability of the form assigned to the names. The form that has been assigned to the various covernames is sometimes completely confirmed and sometimes subject to various degrees of uncertainty.

a. The most favorable case is that in which the name is spelled with elements occurring elsewhere (other than in covernames) as part of an intelligible context, or is represented by a single code group so occurring. Examples: AI-DA, LI.

b. Less favorable, but still fairly reliable, is the case in which the name is spelled with two or more elements, some of which do not occur elsewhere. Since the code is one-part, there are thus several individual clues to the spelling of the word. Examples: KLE-MEN-S, TIU-L'-PAN. But sometimes one element cannot be identified, even though all the others are known. Example: DO--?--SEN-D. Here sometimes a garble is to blame.

c. Least favorable is the case in which the name is represented by only one group not occurring except as a covername. Although the code book is one-part, the limitation is usually not sufficient to make identification certain. If the name is repeated to enable the decoder to degarble, one may have two competing groups, neither of which can be given the preference--a garble having actually occurred. Example: BL--?-- (or BO) or GE.

In this third case, the translator can either replace the uncertain part by a question mark (--?--) or suggest a form that experience with the code book and the traffic involved (and with related code books) render likely or possible. In a few cases, such suggestions are given with only one question mark in the translation below; more often two question marks are used to emphasize the speculative nature of the form.

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Sometimes the omission of question marks can be justified, because analogies guarantee the form adopted. Thus, the covername KARFAGEN (Carthage) for Washington, D. C., although it normally would not be inserted into any code book, must be in the [redacted] book, for its code group is in the right position for KARFAGEN, while New York is certainly TIR (Tyre) and London SIDON.

But analogy generally fails. Covernames may be perfectly ordinary names, either Christian names or surnames (from any language), they may sound like ordinary nicknames (Kid, Captain), they may have a conspiratorial air (Signal, ?Mist?), they may be trivial common nouns, stilted flower names or animal names, historical terms (GONETS 'express messenger'), literary allusions (SHPONKA; see below), and so on up into the most far-fetched and fantastic realms. Finally, they may be syllables of no particular meaning, any "interpretation" of which might mean taking them too seriously (MAR, ELL, ?GE?).

To take one example, a name falling alphabetically between AMI and AN might be AMUR 'Amour' or 'Cupid' (such a group might have been included primarily in reference to the Amur river), but it might equally well be AMFIBIYA 'amphibian', which occurs in some codes, or indeed just AMO or AMP.

A word may be added about Russian-"type" surnames. In both the messages below, a name for which the form RUIBOLOV (or Rybolov) has been suggested occurs. The translator failed to find such a name in available lists of surnames. But Russian-sounding surnames are easy to invent, and it may be that the MGB does invent them, following the practice of Russian novelists, who have long steered clear of the libel laws by such invention. For example, Tolstoy got the name of Prince Bolkonskoy in War and Peace by a slight alteration of the name of Prince Volkonskoy.

3. Procedure. The names will be given in Russian first, in capital letters, and the "translation" will follow in brackets, with only the initial capitalized. Question marks are used only with the Russian to indicate doubtful identification; with the "translation" they indicate doubtful meaning. When the "translation" would have the same form as the Russian, it is omitted; with some names no "translation" can be advanced.

In both messages, the older covername precedes the dash.

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4. The first message. New York-Moscow 1251 [700] of
2 September 1944:

To VIKTOR [Victor].

In accordance with your telegram no. 403 we are
communicating the new covernames:

KAVALERIST [Cavalry Man] -- (?BEY?),
DO--?--SEND -- AH--?-- [??AHMET?? ??AHILL??
(Achilles)],
KLEMENS [Clemens] -- LI [Lee],
(?ABRAM?) -- (?CHEH?) [Czech],
TIUL'PAN [Tulip] -- (??KANTSLER??) [Chancellor],
AIDA [Aida] -- KLO [Chloe?],
(?RUIB?)OLOV -- BL--?-- [or BO or GE (G?)],
GRO--?--E [GROBE? GROZE?] -- (??SERB??) [Serb],
ANTENNA -- LIBERAL,
GNOM [Gnome] -- YAKOV [James, Jacob],
SKAUT [Scout] -- METR [Meter[[possibly METRO],
(??TUMAN??) [Mist] -- NIL [Nile, or Nil, or Neal],
FOGEL' [Vogel] -- PERS [just possible: PERSIYA (Persia)],
--IF--IT-- (?ROST?) [Growth].

All these cover names are [have been?] collected [or
selected] for you --IF-- equivalent --IF--. Among the
new covernames introduced by you there are impossible
ones, which we are preliminarily replacing inasmuch
as [sic]:

STELLA -- EM(?ILIYA?) [Emily],
DONAL'D [Donald] -- (?PILOT?),

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LOBZA(?TEL'?) [Kisser] -- (?RICHARD?),
DUGLE -- (??IKS??) [German name of "X"?].
SHERVUD [Sherwood] -- (??KNIAZ'??) [Prince]
[or ??KNUT??],
--1F--T [KETT?] -- ZON [or ZONA (Zone)],
MIRANDA -- (??ARTEL'??) [Artel] [or ??ARTEMIDA??
(Artemis)],
SENYOR [Señor] -- BERG.

All these cover names are equivalent from the point of
view of their --1F--. Please confirm.

700

MAY

2 September

0^a --1U--

a. This letter O, if correct, is most unusual. The
next group might be a garble for "Conclusion follows"
or an unusual type of null.

5. The second message. New York-Moscow 1403 [798] of
5 October 1944:

To VIKTOR [Victor].

Supplementing our telegram no. 700. We give changes
in covernames:

GUS' [Goose] -- (??ARN??),

ELL [L?] -- BIRKU--?--

OSTROV^a [Island] -- (?EKSPERT?) [Expert] [or
?EKSPLOATATOR? (Exploiter)]

IRI [Erie]-- --1F--,

GURON [Huron]-- --1F--,

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CHIORNOY [Black or Blackie] -- PETER,
EMUL'SIYA [Emulsion] -- SIGNAL,
BRAT [Brother] -- TOMAS [Thomas],
(?KID?) -- --1F--,
NUL' [Null, Zero] -- (ERIK?) [Eric],
SHPONKA^b [Crosspiece joining two planks] -- --1F--,
(?SHTAMP?) [Stamp, Punch] -- (??GAD??) [Gus].
MAKOV -- (?NEMETS?) [German],
REST -- CHARL'Z [Charles],
(??SOLIDARN??)OY [Solidary] -- RODSTVENNIK [Relation,
Relative],
GONETS [Express Messenger (obsolete Term) --
ZHAN [Jean],
YUNOY [Young (One)] -- (?KURYER?) [Courier],
VERA^c [Faith] -- NADEZHDA^c [Hope],
(?RUIB?)OLOV -- KIN [Keen?] [or ?NAR?],
YUPITER [Jupiter] -- (?ORIGINAL?) [Odd Fellow],
GUDZON [Hudson] -- DZHON [John],
FAKIR -- (??ART??),
SKAT [Scott? the German card game Skat?] -- KARL,
ZHANNET [Jeannet(te?)] -- (??AMUR??) [Amour, Cupid]
[or ??AMFIBIYA?? (Amphibian) or the like],
DLINNOY [Long (One)] -- (??DE??) [D?] [or ??DYAVOL??
(Devil) or ??DUIM?? (Smoke)],
TAM [Tom?] -- (?GENRIH?) [Henry],
OLA -- ZHANNA [Jeanne].

Please confirm. Continuation later^d.

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MAY

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- a. OSTROV was the covername for Great Britain.
- b. SHPONKA is the name of a character in a short story of Gogol's.
- c. A common Christian name for women.
- d. No such continuation has been traced.

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